

REMARKS

Claims 1-21, 23, 25-38, 40, and 43-68 are pending in the present Application. Claims 1-15, 32, 53-62, and 65-68 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 63 has been allowed, claim 64 has been cancelled, and no claims have been added, leaving claims 16-21, 23, 25-31, 33-38, 40, 43-52, and 65-68 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

Claims 16 and 17 have been amended to move a limitation from claim 17 to claim 16; and claims 37 and 43 have been amended to move a limitation from claim 43 to claim 37. Additionally, claims 18-19, 20-21, 44 and 48 have been amended for clarification purposes. Accordingly, no new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Objections and Election/Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has objected to claims 17-18 and 43-44 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Further, the Examiner has withdrawn claims 16, 19-21, 23, 25-31, 33-38, 40, 45-52, 59-60, and 65-68 as being drawn to an invention that is materially distinct from the originally elected invention.

Based on the suggestions made by the Examiner in a telephone interview, independent claims 16 and 37 have been amended to include limitations in dependent claims 17 and 43, respectively, such that those claims now cover the originally elected invention. Accordingly, the withdrawal of claims 16 and 37 and the claims depending therefrom, i.e., claims 19-21, 23, 25-31, 33-36, 39, 40, and 45-52, has been removed since those claims are now directed to the originally elected invention. As a result of the foregoing amendments, the objections to claims 17-18 and 43-44 also have been rendered moot.